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TELECOMMUNICATIONS COVER PAGE

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**DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY**

Examiner M. Rahmjoo
Group Art Unit 2676
Serial No. 09/615,026

Telephonic Interview Discussion Points

The telephonic interview will concern the construction of the term “statistical significance” as recited in the claims. Generally speaking, each of the pending claims recites, among other features, the feature of displaying a graph of estimated data points, where a display characteristic of each such estimated data point is a function of the measure of statistical significance of the estimated statistic included in such data point.

In rejecting the claims, the Office Action asserts that this limitation reads on Harvard Graphics’ bar graph in which bar height indicates sales volumes and different intensities are used to display actual vs. projected values. More specifically, the Office Action asserts that the height of each bar in Harvard Graphics (which Harvard Graphics describes as corresponding to sales volume for the year) is a function of the measure of statistical significance of projected sales.

Applicants do not intend the claims to read on the type of display discussed in Harvard Graphics. Rather, Applicants intend the claims to cover situations where each data point has an associated statistical significance, e.g., a variance. Then, for example, the height of the displayed data point might reflect the magnitude of the data point while the displayed intensity of the data point might reflect its statistical significance (e.g., with less significant data points being displayed less intensely). As a result, a user can instantly and conveniently see both the data values and their statistical significances.

As indicated above, it appears that the Examiner is reading the term “statistical significance” more broadly than was intended. In particular, the Examiner appears to be construing the term “statistical significance” to encompass measures of sales volume. Therefore, Applicants would like to discuss clarifying amendments that would address the Examiner’s concern while still maintaining the desired scope of protection. Any such amendments would be made in connection with the filing of a RCE.